

Application No.: 09/854,674

Docket No.: 21900-00025-US

**REMARKS**

In view of the following comments, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Claims 1 to 6 stand rejected under 35U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over admitted prior art in view of Heismann et al. (Signal Tracking and Performance Monitoring in Multi-Wavelength Optical Networks).

However, Applicants do not agree with the Examiner for the following reasons. Although the disclosure by Heismann et al. shows that the frequency of a pilot signal is modulated, the disclosure drastically differs from the present invention as follows:

It is to be noted that the present invention aims to lower the influence of intermodulation distortion which occurs when a pilot signal and a multi-channel video signal are frequency multiplexed. When such an intermodulation distortion exists, a striped pattern is seen on the picture raster. The striped pattern changes such that the inclination angle of the stripes and/or interval between consecutive stripes vary in accordance with the frequency difference between or frequency sum of a pilot signal and a multi-channel video signal. In view of the above fact, the present invention aims to substantially erase such stripes by changing the frequency of the pilot signal. More specifically, according to the present invention, the inclination angle of the stripes and/or interval between consecutive stripes are varied at a speed so that stripes are invisible to the naked eye.

The above technique disclosed by the present application was established by the inventors by paying attention to frequency of intermodulation distortion between a pilot signal and a multi-channel video signal, and is totally novel. Furthermore, the above idea or concept of substantially erasing stripes is neither disclosed or suggested by any of the cited prior art references, and therefore, the present invention is not obvious over the prior art.

Turning to Heismann et al., it is to be noted that FSK is used as frequency modulation, and therefore the frequency of the pilot signal varies between two different values. If FSK of Heismann et al. is applied to the admitted prior art, then the stripes on the TV display picture

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repeat two different angles of inclination. As a result, the stripes are seen such that two stripe patterns are overlapped. In other words, stripe patterns are well detected by the naked eye. This means that the even if the technique of Heismann et al. is applied to the admitted prior art, the same effect of substantially erasing stripes as done in the present invention cannot be obtained.

From the above discussion, it will be clear that the present invention defined by the pending claims is totally novel and is not obvious over the prior art.

Reconsideration and an early allowance are respectfully solicited.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 21900-00025-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

Morris Liss

Registration No.: 24,510

CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP

1990 M Street, N.W., Suite 800

Washington, DC 20036-3425

(202) 331-7111

(202) 293-6229 (Fax)

Attorney for Applicant